

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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January 24, 2000 LB 55, 120

Debate on the advancement of LB 55. Senator Brashear, you're recognized to close. Senator Brashear waives closing. The question is the advancement of LB 55 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 55.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 55 is advanced to E & R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 120 was a bill originally introduced by Senator Crosby. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 7 of last year, at that time referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0173, Legislative Journal page 859, First Session, 1999.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Crosby, you're recognized to open on LB 120.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The reason I voted against adjourning a little while ago, Senator Chambers, is because I've had this bill or something like it in the pipeline maybe for five years. And I didn't want to...I didn't want to get so close to it and not be able to talk about it. So that's why I was hoping you'd all stay for it till noon, at least. So thank you very much for listening. We are...the pages are going to give to you a packet which explains to you all the...and gives you a lot of statistics having to do with joint custody, which is the subject of this bill. And I know that many of you have had discussions, been to meetings, and with your own constituents and with others of the noncustodial parents because over the years this has become a problem with divorce so prevalent, and there is a real feeling about when noncustodial parents get shut out entirely of the parenting process. So, LB 120 provides that joint custody be considered first in determining custody arrangements of a minor child or children when the parents are dissolving their marriage or are legally separating. Now the bill doesn't change the emphasis away from what is the best interest of the child or children. It does, however, emphasize that joint or shared custody should